

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03072 132332Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03072

FOR: IBS IPS IOR, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: "RETREAT FROM DETENTE" MEDIA REACTION

1. THE WELLINGTON "DOMINION" ON JUNE 14 IN ITS
EDITORIAL COMMENTED:

2. "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS IS NOW
SOMETHING SHORT OF DETENTE. IF DETENTE IMPLIES AN
ATTEMPT AT FRIENDLINESS, PERMITTING A TOLERANCE OF
OPPOSING IDEOLOGICAL VIEWS, IT IS NO LONGER CURRENT. TO
DO ANY GOOD, AS OPPOSED TO REAL HARM, DETENTE NEEDED TO BE
A TWO-WAY CO-OPERATIVE STREET. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS
DECIDED THAT THE TRAFFIC HAS BEEN TOO MUCH ONE WAY. THE
RUSSIANS, HE HAS CONCLUDED, HAVE BEEN EXPLOITING
AMERICA'S GOOD NATURE. HE IS BEGINNING TO SOUND RESOLUTE.
IT IS ALMOST BACK TO THE LEXICON OF THE COLD WAR.

3. "NOW THE INTERNATIONAL AIR HAS BECOME SUDDENLY CHILLY
AGAIN. THE HELSINKI ACCORDS HAVE CONFERRED NO HUMAN
RIGHTS BENEFITS INSIDE RUSSIA. THE GROWTH OF THE SOVIET
WAR MACHINE PROCEEDS APACE NOTWITHSTANDING THE STRATEGIC
ARMS LIMITATION TALKS AND THE ATTEMPTS TO SCALE BACK AND
BRING INTO BALANCE THE NATO AND WARSAW PACT ARMIES IN
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 03072 132332Z

EUROPE. THE LAST STRAW FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN THE
SOVIET PENETRATION OF AFRICA.

4. "THIS RESOLVE TO BE MORE CRITICAL OF MOSCOW HAS NOT
COME EASILY FOR THE PRESIDENT, AND INDEED THERE MAY STILL
BE CASUALTIES AMONG HIS ADVISERS BEFORE THE NEW STRATEGY
IS FULLY OPERATIONAL. A PROTRACTED TUG-OF-WAR HAS BEEN

GOING ON FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MIND. ON THE ONE SIDE HAVE BEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND MR ANDREW YOUNG, THE DOVES, AND ON THE OTHER THE HAWKISH MR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY ADVISER.

5. "AMERICAN VACILLATION LEFT A VACUUM IN AFRICA WHICH MOSCOW SWIFTLY FILLED. BELATED ATTEMPTS TO REDRESS THIS IMBALANCE MAY LEAD TO SOME NEW VIETNAM OR OTHER WAR BY PROXY. THESE ARE RISKS MR CARTER MUST WEIGH, TAKING INTO HIS CALCULATION ALSO THE RELUCTANCE OF CONGRESS TO COMMIT UNITED STATES TROOPS ABROAD. THE LESSON OF DETENTE, AS IT LOSES ITS SHINE, IS THAT WISHFUL THINKING IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CLEARLY ENUNCIATED POLICIES THAT LEAVE NO ROOM FOR MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE OTHER SIDE."
ANDERSON

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